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ABSTRACT

This book portrays images and views of approximately 45 Native American women in their roles as mothers, grandmothers, tribal elders, teachers, preservers of traditional beliefs and practices, and leaders in the continuing struggle for survival. An introduction by Anna Lee Walter presents an overview of the modern Native American woman. In the section titled "Remembering," the women reflect on daily life in bygone days, experiences in boarding school, life as an Indian in New York City, grandparents' teachings, and community and family connections. "Life Givers" depicts women as the heart of the family and society, the importance of the role of mother, views on feminism and lesbianism, and integration of art with everyday life. "The Light Within" discusses spirituality, sources of inner strength, religious practices, self-esteem, and cross-cultural respect. "The Earth as Our Mother" draws parallels between women's bodies and the Earth and considers the particular responsibilities of women to protect Mother Earth. "The View from the Shore" examines past and present attacks on Native peoples and land, stereotypes and cultural images of American Indians, and threats to the environment from Western mainstream lifestyles. "The Children: Our Future" discusses the women's fears and hopes for the future of their children, instilling spiritual beliefs and cultural pride in children, the importance of culturally relevant education, and alternative culture-based "survival schools." Contains many photographs, brief profiles of the women, and a list of organizations involved in Native American issues. (SV)

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